



University of Geneva

Swiss Leading House for Science & Technology Cooperation

Call for Projects - Seed Funding Grants

**Cooperation with Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia,
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Tajikistan,
Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan**

DEADLINE: 14 JULY 2018

Introduction

The University of Geneva (UNIGE) has been mandated by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) as Leading House (LH) for cooperation in Science and Technology between Switzerland and the abovementioned countries for 2017-2020.

Purpose of the Grants

This Call for Projects is designed to provide seed funding for projects between academic actors in Switzerland and the following countries: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Projects may be submitted in any scientific discipline; detailed information is provided below.

Application Process

All scientists from Swiss federal and cantonal universities, universities of applied sciences and universities of teachers' education, as well as public research institutions, are eligible to apply. Applications by doctoral students and postdoctoral scientists must be submitted by their supervisors.

Collaborating partners must be affiliated with a university or a public research institute from the partner country.

Proposals for collaborative projects must be submitted jointly, using the common application form at <http://sfg.unige-leadinghouse.ch/project-submission/>. Proposals may come from individual faculty members or a group of faculty but should have Principal Applicants (PA) from Switzerland in all cases; the co-PA shall be from an institution in the partner country.

Please note that this Call is disseminated mainly to academic contacts in Switzerland. Therefore, Swiss stakeholders are strongly encouraged to spread it to their contacts in the partner region.

Aims and conditions

Applications are welcome for **Seed Funding Grants (SFG)**. The funding is aimed at research groups on both sides. Maximum funding from the Leading House will be 10'000 CHF. The grant may be used by group members to cover expenses such as traveling, accommodation or workshops, and/or other expenses if duly justified. However, regular salary costs for project participants will not be considered.

Mobility can take place towards or from Switzerland. The duration of a project will depend on its nature and objectives, but must not span more than two years. SFG funding is open to all academic levels, from PhD candidates upwards. Applications by PhD candidates must be endorsed and coordinated by higher-level applicants on both sides. Conversely, senior applicants are encouraged to involve junior researchers from both sides in their projects.

Cash or in-kind contributions from the foreign partner are strongly encouraged.

Application documents

The project submission consists of the following:

- Short project description (500 words maximum, may be published if project selected)
- Project timeline
- 4 questions based on the criteria in the section below (250 words max/question)
- Project budget (template provided on the web page)
- Short CVs of all participants (no list of publications) (to be uploaded in the "Supporting documentation" section of the application form)
- Other supporting documents are optional

Selection Process and Criteria

In agreement with SERI, the Leading House will aim to fund projects that:

1. Build on mutual areas of excellence in both countries and in the institutions involved
2. Establish a foundation for collaboration beyond the funded term, with potential to receive external support;
3. Emphasize mobility and contacts between young talents in Switzerland and the partner country and contribute to building and reinforcing networks in Science & Technology between Switzerland and the target region.
4. Benefit from joint funding from the participating institution or other sources in the partner country (may also be in-kind contributions);

The projects submitted will be evaluated on a competitive basis according to the criteria above.

Funding

The LH will provide the agreed funding to the Swiss PA, to be spent over the course of the grant period on travel, accommodations, workshops, facilities use and other expenses as specified at the time of the proposal, for participants from Switzerland and/or from the partner country. For travel and housing costs, the funding guidelines used by the Swiss PA's institution can serve as a reference.

Closing Date

The call for proposals closes **14 July, 2018**

Contact for further information

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